

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Paragraph [0050] bridging pages 5 and 6, please amend as follows:

[0050] Referring to Fig. 16, assume that the input may be in the range of 0 to 1. The threshold value is represented by  $th$ . Further, it is assumed that pixel values are input successively to the image processing apparatus starting from pixel (1), and subjected to binarization process. When the input is  $\varepsilon$  (a small value not "0"), "0" is output in the processing of pixels (1) to (4). During this process, errors are accumulated, and therefore, a modification input (output of subtractor 503 shown in Fig. [[14]] 15) increases gradually.